

Annual County Councillors Report From County Councillor Bill Crooks

Dear Chairman, Members and Residents

As your current representative on the County Council, for the past 4 years I have been the Liberal Democrat Spokesperson on the Development Control Committee. I am also a member of the Adults and Community Scrutiny Committee. Councillors are given regular briefings by the Police, Fire Brigade and other issues such as Mental Health, Leicestershire PCT Board, Community Workshops, Highways and Education.

The past year has been particularly difficult because of Covid-19, and councillors have had weekly briefings by senior officers including the Director of Public Health every Tuesday at 4 pm.

All meetings have been held via Skype (or Zoom), which I think does not help the flow of discussions or questions from members. The most difficult part has been not being able to visit residents or deliver our newsletters/leaflets. This has been a hindrance to local people being not able to air their views or for me to visit problem areas.

The County Council already had carried forward a deficit of £30m that officers had not been able to balance, but I am advised that the Covid-19 outbreak has added another £19m. The grant from central Government has been cut back and the future for Government support does not look promising!

Leicestershire is one of the poorest supported authorities in the country, and despite the County Council lobbying all 7 local MP's and visits to the Minister this has got them nowhere! The surprise is that all 7 MPs are of the same party as the Government.

Mr Chairman, Members, Clerk and Residents, I would like to thank you all for your support and advice during this year.

Bill

CC Bill Crooks

Member for Mallory Division